



Olu AMODA
ARTIST DOSSIER

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ABOUT

Olu Amoda (Nigeria, b. 1959) has worked consistently over the past three decades to create a sculptural language that has unique character and beauty. Working as a sculptor, muralist, furniture designer, and multimedia artist, Amoda is best known for using repurposed materials found from the detritus of consumer culture. His works often incorporate rusty nails, metal plates, bolts, pipes, and rods, that are welded together to create figures, animals, flora and ambiguous forms. Amoda uses these materials to explore socio-political issues relating to Nigerian culture today, from sex, politics, race and conflict to consumerism and economic distribution. His seminal body of work, *Sunflower*, explores the connection between mass industry and the organic, winning top prize at the DAK'ART Biennale in Dakar, Senegal in 2014. More recently, Amoda has experimented with new materials and processes as he examines issues of privacy, surveillance, and voyeurism in the Nigerian urban environment.

Amoda graduated in sculpture from Auchi Polytechnic, Nigeria, and received a Master's Degree of Fine Arts from Georgia Southern University, USA. Amoda has participated in exhibitions at the Victoria and Albert Museum (UK), the Museum of Art and Design (New York), Skoto Gallery (New York), Georgia Southern University (USA), Didi Museum (Nigeria), WIPO Headquarters (Switzerland), and Art Twenty One (Nigeria), among others. He has completed residencies at Villa Arson (France), The Bag Factory (South Africa), Appalachian State University (North Carolina), and the New York Design Museum. His work is included in many prestigious art collections including the Newark Museum and Fondation Blachère. Amoda has taught Sculpture and Drawing at the School of Art, Design and Printing at Yaba College of Technology in Lagos since 1987. Amoda lives and works in Lagos.

EDUCATION

- 2009 Georgia Southern University, Statesboro GA USA, MFA
Sculpture
- 1983 Auchu Polytechnic, Edo State, Nigeria, HND Sculpture

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Around and Abound the Green Line*, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2015 *Fringe*, Art Twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2013 *Cequel Relapse*, Gallery of African Art, London, UK
- 2013 *Cequel: A Shifting of a Few Poles*, Art Twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2012 *Cequel*, The Wheatbaker Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2011 *Cequel*, University of Ibadan, Nigeira, African Studies Department Convocation Exhibition series
- 2009 *Template: Musing Death and King's Horseman by Wole Soyinka*, Skoto Gallery, New York, NY
- 2007 *Heads and Ties*, Fashion Architectonic, Skoto Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Objects of Art*, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2004 *Oscillating between the Ideal Form and Functional Necessities*, French Cultural Centre and Alliance Francaise, Abuja, Nigeria
- 2003 *Oscillating between the Ideal Form and Functional Necessities*, French Cultural Centre and Alliance Francaise, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2003 *Lacerating*, Nimbus Art Centre, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1999 *Sound, Stain, and Steel*, French Cultural Centre and Alliance Francaise, Lagos, Nigeria

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014	<i>Scrapbook</i> , Danfo project group exhibition, Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria
2014	<i>TEPNG</i> , Port Harcourt, Nigeria
2014	<i>Society for Nigerian Artists at 50</i> , Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
2014	<i>Dak'Art Biennale</i> , Dakar, Senegal
2013	<i>The way we are, a dialogue with Joshua Akande</i> , Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria
2013	<i>TEPNG</i> , Port Harcourt, Nigeria
2012	<i>Danfo</i> , Our resolve, Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria
2011	<i>The Last Pictures Show</i> , Lagos, Nigeria
2011	<i>Nigeria, Our Nigeria</i> , The 2011 Inauguration exhibition, Abuja, Nigeria
2010	<i>The Global Africa Project</i> , Museum of Art and Design, New York, NY
2010	Guest Artist, Society of Nigerian Artists, Delta State Chapter, Nigeria
2009	<i>Aresuya</i> , Abuja, Nigeria
2009	<i>Quality Ball Room</i> exhibition, Statesboro, Georgia (USA)
2008	<i>Aresuya</i> , Abuja, Nigeria
2007	<i>Out of the Ordinary</i> , Victoria Albert Museum, London, UK
2007	<i>Caldwell Arts Council</i> , Lenoir NC (USA)
2006	<i>Delta State Art and Tourism Week</i> exhibition, Petroleum Training Institute, Warri, Nigeria
2006	<i>Diversity: An Exhibition of African Contemporary Art of Nigeria</i> , Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited, Operators of NNPC/EPNL Joint Venture, Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria
2006	<i>Danfo Project group exhibition, The Way We Are</i> , Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria

- 2005 *Danfo Project, group exhibition , The Way We Are, School of Art and Design Gallery, YCT, Lagos, Nigeria*
- 2005 *Abuja Carnival Art Exhibition, Abuja, Nigeria*
- 2005 *Totalfinaelf Show, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria*
- 2005 *A Bend in the River, National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria*
- 2004 *A Joucas, Un Parfum Dâ Afrique En Provence. La Fondation Blachere A Permis Lâ Accueil De 12 Artistes DICI Et Dâ Ailleurs Aux Quatre Coin Du Village. Resultant Passionnant A Decouvrir Ce Soir Et Pour Deux Mois, France*
- 2004 *OFF DAK, 6th Biennale De Lâ Art African Contemporian Dakar, Senegal*
- 2004 *Art Intrafrika (Africa Meets South-America Meets Europe), Experimenteller Workshop Zeigt Installation Aus Afrika, Sudamerika Und Europa (Touring Exhibition)*
- 2004 *Art and Democracy Exhibition, 5th Anniversary of Democracy, Delta state, Nigeria*
- 2004 *6TH Harmattan workshop Exhibition, Agbaraha-Otor, Nigeria*
- 2003 *A Journey Through Nigerian Arts, Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja, Nigeria*
- 2003 *Across the Divide Speedy, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, (ZA)*
- 2003 *Intrafrika (Africa Meets South-America Meets Europe), Experimenteller Workshop Zeigt Installation Aus Afrika, Sudamerika Und Europa*
- 2003 *Playtime, Johannesburg, South Africa*
- 2002 *4TH Harmattan Workshop Exhibition, Agbaraha Otor, Nigeria*
- 2002 *Global Family, Villa Arson, Nice, France*
- 2001 *African Art Exhibition, ELF village, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria*
- 2001 *3rd Harmattan workshop Exhibition, Art and Environment, Agbaraha Otor, Nigeria*
- 2001 *EXPO 2000, Elf Village, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria*
- 2001 *Piano Bar Students Installation, CORA Book and Art festival, Lagos, Nigeria*

- 2000 *Rainforest Installation*, Goethe Institute, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2000 *Colors and Forms from Nigeria*, National Summit on Africa, Washington DC, (USA)
- 1999 EXPO 2000 ELF VILLAGE, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- 1999 Aftershave International Artist Exhibition MOTNA, JOS, Nigeria
- 1998 EXPO 99 ELF VILLAGE, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- 1998 *Oasis*, Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1998 *Heads And Stilts*, Quintessence gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1997 *Forms And Colors*, Russian Cultural Centre, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1997 *Time For Books*, French Cultural Centre and Alliance Francaise, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1997 *Wasanii International Artists Workshop Exhibition*, National Museum, Kenya
- 1997 *Wasanii International Artists Workshop Exhibition*, Elsamere Field Study Centre, Lake Naivasha. Kenya
- 1996 *Convocation Ceremony Exhibition* Centre For Cultural Studies University of Lagos, Nigeria
- 1996 *Sounds Of Steel* Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1995 *Stahlpark Riederbach*, Oka, Austria
- 1995 *Contemporary Nigerian Art (102 Piece Exhibits)* at The World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO] Headquarter, Geneva Switzerland
- 1994 Search "94 Maiden Exhibition Bankers Institute Lagos, Nigeria
- 1993 *Wasted Thoughts On Waste*, Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1993 *Metal Art In Nigeria*, OAU/ ECOWAS Summit, Abuja, Nigeria
- 1992 Exhibition Of Visual Artists Organised By The Copyright Council In Collaboration with The Goethe Institut and The National Theater, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1991 *Creative Relay SNA Exhibition*, National Gallery For Arts and

- Crafts. Lagos, Nigeria
- 1991 *Emeka Kala Ezera Memorial Exhibition Tribute*, United States Information Services, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1990 *Nigerian, an Exhibition Of Six Selected Nigerian Artists*, Nigerian High Commission, Accra, Ghana
- 1990 *National Exhibition, Images Of The Nigerian Nation*, National Theatre, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1990 *Unity Through Art*, National Commission For Museums Monuments. Sponsored By Guinness Nigeria Plc., a Maiden Exhibition Of Works By A Galaxy Of 12 Selected Nigerian Artists, Nigeria
- 1990 *Reflection from Africa*, Onira Arts Africa, An Exhibition Of 11 Nigerian Artist, Canada
- 1990 25th SILVER JUBILEE EXHIBITION, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1989 Nigerian/German Workshop and Exhibition of Painting And Mixed Techniques, a Collaboration Of Goethe Institut And National Council For Museums and Monuments, Nigeria
- 1989 *Bicentenary Of The French Revolution*, French Cultural Centre, Lagos, (NG)
- 1989 Nigerian/German Metal Workshop Titled [Inside Outside], Goethe Institut Lagos, Nigeria
- 1987 *Toward A Greater Nation*, Italian Cultural Institute Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1987 *Yaba College Of Technology at 40*, Staff Exhibition, National Gallery For Modern Art, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1987 *Young Artist Art Exhibition*. United States Information Services Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1986 University Of Lagos, Silver Jubilee Exhibition. Centre For Cultural Studies, Nigeria.

- 1986 *Fragments Of Images*, National Gallery For Craft And Design, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1985 *Offering From The Gods*, National Gallery For Modern Art Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1985 *Abayomi Barber School Exhibition*, National Council For Arts and Culture Lagos, Nigeria.

AWARDS

- 2014 Grand Prix Léopold Sédar Senghor,, Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
- 2006 Delta State of Nigeria, Honor for the Most Innovate Sculptor of the Year
- 1989 Runner Up, Nigerian Artist and French Revolution, Organised by the French Cultural Centre, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1987 Grand Prize Winner, First Annual Young Artist Competition, Organised by the United States Unifromation Service, Lagos, Nigeria

ARTIST RESIDENCES

- 2010 Artist in Residence, New York Design Museum, New York, NY
- 2006 Artist In Residence, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
- 2003 Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000 Villa Arson, Nice France

WORKSHOPS

- 2007 Emmanuel Eni (Berlin): Charakterlagostika Multimedia Art Workshop, Goethe Institut Lagos, Nigeria
- 2006 Design Made In Nigeria, British Council/Yaba College of Technology/Royal College of Art/Wotaside Studio
- 2004 ATELIERS DE SCULPTURE " JOUCAS FRANCE
- 2004 6th Harmattan Workshop Ovuomaroro Gallery Agbarha-Otor, Delta State, Nigeria
- 2000 Intrafrika (Africa Meets South-America Meets Europe Experimentell Workshop Zeigt Installation Aus Afrika, Sudamerika Und Europa, Berlin
- 2003 5th Harmattan Workshop 2000 Ovuomaroro Gallery Agbarha-Otor, Delta State, Nigeria
- 2003 Waste To Wealth Installation Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2002 4th Harmattan Workshop Ovuomaroro Gallery Agbarha-Otor, Delta State, Nigeria
- 2002 Global Family Villa Arson Nice, France
- 2000 Rainforest Installation Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2000 3RD Harmattan Workshop Ovuomaroro Gallery Agbarha-Otor, Delta State, Nigeria
- 1999 Curatorial Workshop, Accra, Ghana
- 1999 Aftershave International Artist Workshop Motna, Jos, Nigeria
- 1997 Wasanii International Artist Workshop Elsamere Field Study Centre Lake Naivasha.
- 1996 Printmaking Workshop Co- Sponsored By Goethe Institut Lagos And Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria

- 1996 Life Drawing Pilot Workshop Sponsored By The Office of The Director of School Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1995 Sounds Of Steel Co-Sponsored By Goethe Institut Lagos And Department of Fine & Applied Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
- 1995 Oka Kraftwerk Riedersbach A - 5120 St. Pantaleon Oo.
- 1995 Vibration Ii Co-Sponsored by Goethe Institut Lagos & Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1994 Vibration I Co-Sponsored by Goethe Institut Lagos & Department of Fine Art, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria
- 1987 Inside Outside Co-Sponsored Goethe Institut Lagos & Department of Fine Art, Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria

GRANTS

- 2004 Travel/ Workshop Grant From La Fondation Blachere To Attend ATELIERS DE SCULPTURE JOUCAS, France
- 2004 Travel Grant From Ford Foundation To Attend 6th Biennale De Art African Contemporian Dakar - Senegal
- 2004 Travel Grant From French Embassy To Attend 6th Biennale De Art African Contemporian Dakar - Senegal
- 2003 Travel Grant From MTN Foundation South Africa To Attend A Residency Program In South Africa
- 2003 Travel Grant From German Government To Attend An International Artist Workshop In Berlin, Germany
- 2002 Travel Grant From Goethe Institute Lagos To Attend Dar'kart Senegal, Manifesta In Frankfurt, And Documenta 11 In Kasel Germany
- 1997 Travel Grant From British Council To Attend An International Artist Workshop In Kenya

PRESS

- 2015 This Day, Lagos, Nigeria, "Olu Amoda's Metallic Statement", March 15, p. 72.
- 2015 The Nation,, Lagos, Nigeria, "Exploring Female Sensuality", March 18, p. 50.
- 2015 Saturday Sun, Lagos, Nigeria, "Amoda goes for master stroke with Fringe" March 28, p. 42.
- 2015 The Union, Lagos, Nigeria, "The Modern-Day Archaeologist", March 29, p. 40.
- 2015 Newswatch Times, Lagos, Nigeria, "Amoda showcases newest works at solo exhibition", , April 3, p. 48.
- 2015 Vanguard, "Celebrating female sensuality through arts", April 10, p. 35.
- 2015 Business Day, Lagos, Nigeria, "A peep into Olu Amoda's Fringe", April 12, p. 33.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Nigerian Artists (NSA), Chairman Lagos State Chapter, 1990-91

Member, Goethe Forum for Africa (Visitation Team for Dak'Art, Senegal and 5th Edition of Documenta 11, Germany, 2002)

Member, Danfo (Courage to Create), Artistic group project for Propogating and Providing a Platform for Contemporary Art in Nigeria